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STARS OF THE ORION TYPE WITH BRIGHT HYDROGEN LINES.

The following stars of the Orion type of spectrum have been found to have bright hydrogen lines. The first four stars and the last have both $H\gamma$ and $H\beta$ bright, but in the other two stars $H\beta$ alone can be observed as bright with any certainty. The appearance of $H\beta$ in 20 *Vulpeculæ* is very similar to that of the calcium lines H and K in the solar spectrum when observed over a group of flocculi. The bright line is double with a narrow dark line between the two components, and in addition dark lines are present on the outside of the bright lines. These are, however, relatively stronger and narrower than are the wings of the calcium lines in the Sun.

Star.	Mag.
48 *Persei*	4.2
11 *Camelopardi*	5.3
165 *G. Can. Maj.*	5.3
20 *Vulpeculæ*	6.0
25 *Vulpeculæ*	5.7
8 *Lacertæ*	5.9

It seems probable that the presence of bright lines in 48 *Persei* must have been observed previously, in view of the comparative brightness of this star, but we have been unable to find any record of such observations in the material at hand.

September, 1911.

WALTER S. ADAMS and JENNIE B. LASBY.

OBSERVING HALLEY'S COMET FROM THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT WHITNEY.

Learning from Professor A. G. MCADIE that Mr. G. F. MARSH, of Lone Pine, had climbed Mount Whitney for the purpose of viewing from its summit Halley's Comet and the total eclipse of the Moon on May 23, 1910, I wrote to Mr. MARSH to ask further particulars, and print herewith his reply. So far as I am aware, Mt. Whitney is by far the highest point on the Earth's surface to which anyone has climbed for the sake of seeing a comet, and a record of the feat seems of interest. R. G. AITKEN.

[Copy of letter.]

LONE PINE, INYO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

Dear Sir: Replying to yours of a few days ago in regard to the comet I saw from Mt. Whitney: I left Lone Pine about 8 A. M. and drove 10 miles to the mouth of the canyon. I sent the team back and fixed my pack of blankets and food and a pair of snowshoes (kindly loaned me by Professor CHURCH, of Reno). I got to timber line at about 4 o'clock. I fixed my camp and made ready for an early start next morning, as I did not know what I might be up against. I slept well and left camp at 4 A. M.—just daylight.

I made good time to 12,000 feet by avoiding the snow on the steep places. I could not use my snowshoes on the steep ground, so I climbed the clear rocks. At 12,000 feet the snow was deeper, but I made good time to 12,500 and then the snow was icy and hard to get a footing on. It took me a long time to get to 13,000, but by being sure of every step, I made it without accident and got to Lone Pine Pass, 13,375 feet, at 8 A. M. There was a long stretch of snow for half a mile on a steep hillside, but the snow was rough windrows, so I made good time. At Lake View, 13,550 feet, I went over a big bank of snow all right and then came to a little gulch which was very steep, but the snow was soft and I got a good footing. This was the most dangerous place on the trip; one slip there and it would be all off.

From there on I made good time and got to the top of Whitney [14,500 feet] at about 11 A. M., just about the time I thought I would. I found the building[1] in good shape and everything as I had left it. I made a fire, but did not feel hungry. I fixed my signal and waited till 11:45, the time I was to signal to my wife. I opened the shutter and immediately got a flash from Lone Pine. Then I gave my signal—1.2—and got 1.2 in return. I also got signals from several parts of town, showing they were on the lookout for me, as a few said I would never get there.

I fixed up good for the night, read the weather report of 23 below zero, and fixed up a signal fire of old paper and chips so I could signal at night, but it started to cloud up and looked like storming. Heavy banks of haze formed to the west and at sundown the whole sky was cloudy and I thought it was all off. At 7:30 P. M. it cleared and I lit my fire. Clouds drifted across, but I got an answer from Lone Pine.

I was getting anxious about the Moon and the comet when the clouds began to break. I commenced to look for the comet but the clouds bothered. Pretty soon the cloud raised and I saw the Moon about half covered, and in watching it so close I almost forgot the comet. I watched the Moon until it was almost covered, then I saw the tail of the comet. Then all of a sudden the comet showed in plain view. The cloud had passed by and the Moon was dark. The comet was further west than I expected. It was a good deal larger than I expected and of a milky color, but quite bright, and the tail streamed out for a long distance and was very beautiful. It seemed like a great horse's tail streaming out. The comet seemed to travel very fast. In my excitement I forgot all about the time, but was wishing all the time I had someone with me who understood more about it.

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[1] The building erected by the Smithsonian Institution in 1909, under Mr. MARSH's supervision. See these *Publications*, Vol. XXI, p. 203.

It was a beautiful sight. The sky up high was perfectly clear, but low down great banks of fog were rolling. I watched the comet until it dove into the fog bank to the west and was gone, but the tail shone out for quite a while.

I went to bed, slept good, and started home at 7 A. M. I had a hard time going down on the snow, as it was frozen so hard, but I got to the power plant (10 miles from town) at 2 o'clock. My wife had sent a team for me and I was in Lone Pine at 4:30. I made the trip in good shape and alone, which I will admit was foolish, but all who had promised to go with me backed out. I was well repaid for my trip, but wished some one had been with me to enjoy it.

Yours truly, G. F. MARSH.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

Mr. R. F. SANFORD has been appointed Assistant at the D. O. Mills Station of the Lick Observatory at Santiago, Chile. Mr. SANFORD was formerly an Assistant in the Lick Observatory, resigning in 1905 to take a position in the Carnegie Institution Expedition to San Luis, Argentina, under Professor R. H. TUCKER.

Dr. R. E. WILSON and Mr. R. S. SHEPPARD have been appointed Assistants in the Lick Observatory, the appointments dating from July 1, 1911. Dr. WILSON's graduate studies in Astronomy were pursued at the University of Virginia, and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy was conferred upon him in June, 1911. The subject of his thesis was "New Positions of the Stars in the *Huyghenian* Region of the Great Nebula in *Orion*." Mr. SHEPPARD received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Toronto with the class of 1911.

R. G. AITKEN.

August, 1911.